NARP Programme

1993. SHRI PRABHAKAR B. KORE :
PROF. I.G. SANADI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is correct that under NARP programme foreign long term loan has been used for development of infrastructure such as buildings and roads for ICAR and Agriculture Universities if so, full details of NARP project as operated so far;

(b) whether any independent evaluation of NARP has been conducted so far and if so, details thereof ;

(c) whether it is a fact that large NARP funds have been diverted towards evaluation and travel of "Experts" and purchase of vehicles etc. and if so, details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(d) How much total interest is likely to be paid and in what currency, for these loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA) : (a) Yes, Sir. National Agricultural Research Project (NARP) has been launched with the assistance of world bank loan to strengthen zonal research capabilities of State Agricultural Universities. Under the project, financial support is provided for building infrastructure at Zonal Research Stations/sub-stations/special stations of the State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) The approved items include staffing, laboratory and farm equipments, operating costs, residences and laboratory buildings. An amount of Rs. 119.61 crores has been released under this project so far for establishment /strengthening of 343 research stations in 26 SAUs and training sub-projects in 8 ICAR Institutes.

(b) Yes, Sir. As provided in the agreement entered into with the World Bank for implementation of NARP, the mid-term review of NARP phase-II was conducted by a joint Review Team comprising representatives from Govt. of India (Ministry of Finance), World Bank and ICAR. The Mid Term Review Team submitted its report in April, 1989. suggesting steps necessary to build up an appreciation for NARP concept, improvement in the quality of workshops and identification of new areas of investment. The research sub-projects are evaluated od completion of 5 years by a committee appointed by the ICAR involving out sine national consultants.

(c) It is not correct that large funds have been frittered away on evaluation and travel of experts and purchase of vehicles. In order to improve the mobility of the scientists and for strengthening research extension linkages, on an average two vehicles have been provided for the zonal research stations and one vehicle for some of the sub-stations. This has been done exactly in accordance with the norms laid down for this purpose. The travel cost has also been kept at a bare minimum. In fact, out of a provision of Rs. 21.00 lakhs in phase-II, only Rs. 3.40 lakhs has been used upto 31st December, 91 on this account.

(d) The I.D.A. Credit is a soft loan carrying no interest. Transactions under this credit are in the currency of United States of America.

Cultivation of Durum Wheat

1394. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that it had been decided to promote cultifation of Durum wheat for exports and if so, the progress in this area indicating the quantity of Durum wheat exported during the past three years along with the net price per quintal ; and

(b) what is Government's policy in view of the new situation of wheat imports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: (a) Government of India is exploring the possibility of Durum wheat both for export and for domestic industrial uses. A meeting was organised by the Ministry of Agriculture with Durum wheat growing states, Ministry of Food, NAFED, ICAR, Durum wheat Breeders and concerned Divisions of Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation. There is no official reord available about export of Durum wheat during the last three years. Since the support price per quintal for Durum wheat is the same as is applicable for normal wheat, no separate procurement of Durum wheat has been done so far.

(b) To contain open market prices and to improve availability of wheat, import is being made by the Department of Food. However, it is expected that the target of wheat production kept at 56.5 million tonnes is likely to be achieved in full during 1991-92.